

# PROSPECTUS 2019-20





## Message from the Principal

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. We hope that it goes some way to answer your questions.

This is a very exciting door that we are going through. The establishment of a Christian School in Ballynahinch is a wonderful opportunity for the children of parents who view the Word of God as vital in their education. Doubtless, there will be hurdles and sacrifices. Nothing is ever birthed without a struggle. However, we trust the Lord for all things needed.

We can be confident of this one truth; Christ will provide from His hand all things that we have need of. We do not desire status, nor even the approval of man, but to be found faithful to the Lord in all that He asks of us.

## About Us

The need for a Christian school in Ballynahinch was birthed in the heart of the church in 2008. It was through the verse

*"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house"*

**Hebrews 11:7**

At that time, we had just 3 children and no facilities. However, the seed was planted, and from that time the vision for a school began to develop and grow. Initially, we started as home educators, we asked the Lord for more families to come with the same heart and a building debt free.

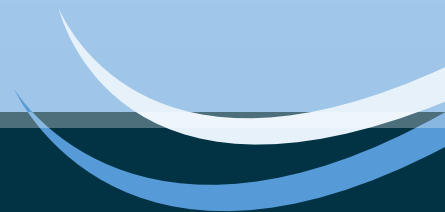
Over time more parents shared the conviction for Christian education for their children and this evolved into a home-school cooperative in 2016. At that time we were greatly blessed to move into new church premises, (debt free!) on Main Street Ballynahinch. From 2016 until April 2019 the rooms below the sanctuary were utilised by parents within the church to conduct the three day home school cooperative. Further to our current facilities, we have been greatly blessed with the purchase of an additional building on Harmony Way, which will enable us to offer our school more opportunities to develop.

Harmony Christian School is an integral part of the local church. It is there to serve the needs of like minded parents, who share the same conviction for their children to be educated in a Christian environment.

We have a dedicated team of teachers and assistants, under the leadership of our Principal, Mrs Zara-Leanne Woods. It is with grateful hearts and great expectation that we continue with the vision and heart that the Lord planted some years ago.

Pastor Tim McIlwrath

New Testament Pentecostal Church



## Our Staff

The staff and Board of Governors are all committed Christians, already highly dedicated to the vision and ethos of the school.

- ♦ Mrs Zara –Leanne Woods – School Principal and ABCs Class Supervisor
- ♦ Mrs Nicola McIlwrath - Reception Class Supervisor
- ♦ Mr Ben Leslie - Learning Centre Supervisor
- ♦ Mrs Emma Gallagher – Classroom Assistant
- ♦ Mrs Ashling Mateer – Classroom Assistant
- ♦ Mrs Paula Nas – Classroom Assistant

We are also very thankful for many others who volunteer in the school on a part-time basis and all staff have a clear enhanced disclosure certificate from Access NI.

## Board of Governors

- ♦ Pastor Timothy McIlwrath - Pastoral Oversight and Chairperson
- ♦ Mrs Carol Annett
- ♦ Mr Ben Leslie
- ♦ Mrs Zara - Leanne Woods



## Our Vision and Ethos

Christian Education is all about us as parents taking responsibility for our children's learning, and ensuring the Word of God is not merely symbolic, but the centre and substance of everything they are taught. The Bible instructs us as parents, not only **what** to teach our children but also **how** to teach them.

**Ephesians 6:4** *"bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"*

We value our children more than our own lives; they are the *"heritage of the Lord"* **Psalms 127:3**

The heart and mind of a young child is like a sponge, readily absorbing everything from their immediate environment. Henceforth are established the desires, views, and beliefs which set the course for their precious lives.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, the heart of Harmony Christian School is that children would grow in grace and in stature and in the knowledge of Christ. This knowledge being not merely a mental consent to Biblical truths, but a life yielded to the love and person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are convinced according to the Word of God that children are to learn in a Godly environment, with Christ as the centre of everything. We firmly believe, as in **Isaiah 58:12** *"And **they that shall be of thee** shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."*

## Positive Behaviour Policy

Discipline also plays a big part in the life of the school. A child's attitude, conversation and behaviour are encouraged to be in harmony with the characteristics of Christ they learn each week.

The success of the school depends on both parents and students alike submitting their children to display the Christian standards in courtesy, respect, kindness, morality, honesty, modesty and general demeanour. We seek to encourage the student's consistency of all such attributes, in all realms of their home, church and community.



## Biblical Character

Biblical principles and concepts are interwoven into all aspects of the curriculum. Each student is taught from a biblical perspective, developing critical thinking skills which enable them to discern what truly is *"...the good and acceptable and perfect will of God"*. Romans 12:2. The A.C.E. curriculum presents ninety character traits of Jesus throughout the PACE material and presents role modelling that promotes biblical integrity and Christ-like character.

A glimpse of the character traits woven throughout the curriculum include being -

- ◆ Attentive
- ◆ Confident
- ◆ Dependable
- ◆ Equitable
- ◆ Fearless
- ◆ Gracious
- ◆ Honest
- ◆ Perseverant
- ◆ Resourceful
- ◆ Steadfast
- ◆ Tolerant
- ◆ Virtuous



## Our Curriculum

The Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) curriculum is an academically excellent, individualised programme. The curriculum has been used by thousands of schools and home educators all over the world for more than forty years. The A.C.E. curriculum provides parents with a quality programme they can trust and enables parents to monitor the standards and content of their children's education, from reception year through to university entrance. The curriculum is supplied within Europe by Christian Education Europe Ltd and it forms the basis for the International Certificate of Christian Education secondary level qualification.

Each child receives an individualised Academic Prescription. The curriculum allows them to progress at a rate appropriate to his/her personal ability. Diagnostic Testing determines the particular learning needs and requirements of each child. Consequently, no child is left behind, unable to keep up with the rest of the class and no child is held back through being ahead of others. Each child can maximise the achievement of his/her potential and feel the sense of having done their very best. Achievements are frequently recognised and rewarded through merits, a school House system, certificates and other incentives.

With the A.C.E. curriculum, emphasis is placed on learning rather than teaching. Children are taught to take responsibility of their own learning and are trained with the skills necessary to take initiative and achieve their potential. The prime method of learning is achieved by students working through colourful booklets called PACEs (Packet of Accelerated Christian Education) in various subjects, reading supplied texts, filling in blanks in questions, linking words with definitions, writing sentences and short essays, doing simple experiments, searching dictionaries, solving mathematical problems, using computers, watching DVDs and in many other ways.

There are frequent short tests throughout each PACE, leading up to the Self Test at the end of the PACE, where the student assesses his own understanding of the work. If he passes the Self Test, he will proceed to the PACE test the following day. If passed, this will demonstrate a full grasp of the material. Progression to the next PACE is only permitted when mastery of the current work has clearly been demonstrated.

A.C.E. curriculum is of the highest academic standard and is the only Christian-based curriculum recognised for its academic competency to prepare students for university.





## Foundation Stage

**Reception Class** with Ace and Christi is a fun-filled, creative programme that prepares children with the essential and foundational skills for successful literacy and numeracy skills. It is a one year programme and uses a comprehensive range of development learning activities and high quality resources and materials. The child will also learn social skills, the wonders of God's world, and the reality of God's love.

Children who score 80% or above on a Reading Readiness Test graduate to the **ABCs with Ace and Christi**. This 12 to 16 week multi-sensory, phonetic reading programme is designed to prepare a child for the individualised instruction of the PACE curriculum. Some children benefit from taking longer than three to four months.

Reception Class and ABCs with Ace and Christi focus on five subjects of PACE material –

- ◆ **Mathematics:** association of amounts with numbers, proportions, dot-to-dot pictures and sets
- ◆ **English:** sound and shape of each letter of the alphabet; activities for visual perception, visual memory, similarities, motor skills, sequencing and associations
- ◆ **Word Building:** visuals for animal stories, emphasis on character training; reinforcement of phonetics
- ◆ **Social Studies:** visuals for bible stories, activities on family and relatives, personal responsibilities, church leaders, school workers, community helpers, foreign countries, missionaries and history
- ◆ **Science:** creation and nature; seasons and weather; good habits and manners; health, nutrition and safety; body parts and senses

Each subject is approached from a sound Biblical standpoint, acknowledging in every area the authority of the Creator in His Creation. The vital area of Christian character training is reinforced through the learning of Scripture, a character trait and cartoons. This character training forms a continuous thread running through the entire curriculum.

## Extra Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities also form part of the school week for all students with areas such as:

- ◆ **Music:** dealing with singing, music appreciation and recorder playing. Further tuition can be arranged on a private basis, in addition to the set curriculum
- ◆ **Art & Crafts:** to develop artistic abilities and an appreciation of aesthetic beauty. Craft work is introduced into lessons with the aim of building confidence in creative skills
- ◆ **P.E. & Swimming:** seek to develop the student's physical health and cultivate a positive attitude towards sports
- ◆ **Drama:** seeks to be cross-curricular with history, Bible teaching, literature and social studies
- ◆ **Languages:** students are introduced to Spanish at a junior level and other languages are available for seniors to elect
- ◆ **Information Technology:** used in each classroom daily for assignments and further learning

## Homework

The A.C.E. curriculum that Harmony Christian School uses operates a system of daily goal setting, whereby the Key Stage 1-4 students, under supervisor guidance, set their own goal pages to be completed in each subject for that day. Therefore, only when students do not get all of their goals completed do they take homework with them after school hours. This homework is the remainder of the goals the student has not completed. Foundation Stage children in Reception Class and ABCs class will never have homework. Our students have worked so hard and diligently during the school day that we believe that their evening should be free to enjoy being children and enjoy being with their families. So, the promise of "no homework" is a great motivational tool for the students to achieve their goals. Parents are asked to sign any homework slips brought home to show that they are aware of their child's homework assignments. It is the student's responsibility to complete the homework.



## Key Stage One to Four

An average child will complete approximately 70+ PACEs a year in total (about 12 – 14 in each subject) at lower levels and 60+ PACEs a year in total at higher levels. In general, the six core subjects are covered with a wide range of enrichment courses depending on the student's level in the curriculum.

- ◆ **Mathematics:** Algebra, Geometry, Arithmetic and Calculus. A logical orderly method of taking the student from the known to the unknown. Your child will be encouraged to recognise God as the God of order and absolutes
- ◆ **English:** Grammar and Usage. Develops optimum language skills, building on traditional grammar and usage concepts. Includes regular evaluation of progress in thinking, reading & writing skills with integrated Biblical and character building principles
- ◆ **Literature:** and Creative Writing. Students are encouraged to experience reading as a pleasure. Opportunities are given for creative thinking and writing along with written comprehension exercises
- ◆ **Word Building:** Spelling and Word Structure. A vocabulary-controlled study of level appropriate words, root words, prefixes, suffixes, etc. increasing the student's vocabulary base and reinforces their confidence and capability in spelling
- ◆ **Social Studies:** History, Geography, Economics and Government. Looks at world history and cultures from the perspective of God as the Designer, Creator and Controller of the universe with emphasis on a citizen's biblical responsibility
- ◆ **Science:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical & Animal Science. Takes the student's natural curiosity about the physical environment and helps them build a solid foundation based on Biblical principles

## Transferring from another school

Curricula differ in content and in the timing and introduction of that content. Children who have already done some schooling on another curriculum may not have covered material in the same sequence as A.C.E. Since A.C.E. operates on the basis of mastery learning, not a timetable, it is important to find out exactly what a new pupil knows, so that any areas where A.C.E. introduces material earlier can be identified. This is done by giving the child a Diagnostic Test, which will determine the general level at which they should commence, and also identify any gaps in his or her knowledge that need to be filled with 'gap PACEs'.

To take advantage of Christian education at Harmony Christian School, your child will in no way miss out in relation to future prospects for further education or employment. In fact they can expect to go further, having the confidence and character to achieve their full potential.



## International Certificate of Christian Education

The **International Certificate of Christian Education** (ICCE) recognises and encourages a high standard of academic achievement according to the student's abilities. The focus on teaching from a Biblical worldview encourages and promotes the development of Christian character.

UK NARIC benchmarked the ICCE in 2008 and 2011 and found the General and Advanced Certificates comparable to Cambridge International Education O and A Levels respectively.

ICCE enables students to gain entrance to universities and colleges in the UK and around the world and to find their place in the world of work according to their interests, aptitudes and achievements.

The ICCE offers several certificate levels providing options for students using A.C.E. educational resources as core learning materials. These are divided into two tracks: academic and vocational. The specific focus of the ICCE Academic Certificates is the final four years of schooling during which students are prepared for Higher Education and employment. The vocational certificates have a less academic focus.

The ICCE represents an educationally cohesive and balanced course of study across the core subject disciplines in the fields of Language, Arts (including Foreign Languages), Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Humanities), Creative and Performance Arts, Technology, Health and Physical Education.

Further information can be given about the ICCE upon request.

The complete curriculum, from Reception class to University entrance, is detailed in a Scope and Sequence document, which outlines the material covered in every PACE in every subject and is available upon request to Harmony Christian School.



## School Hours & Calendar

All school children, from Year 1 to Year 14, are in school from 8:55am – 3pm Monday to Friday.

We trust that one drop-off and pick up time for all children, regardless of age, will help with managing your time easier and you will benefit from not having to juggle various school pick up times.

A school calendar is issued at the start of each academic year which informs you of school holidays and other events, such as the parent / teacher interviews, a termly school prayer meeting and field trips that your entire family is welcome to attend.

## Dress Code

Realising that the dress code identifies the students of Harmony Christian School on site and in the community, adherence to it is a vital responsibility of both the parents and the students. A complete, clean and tidy uniform must be worn every day unless a free dress day is given.

School uniform is available to purchase from a local supplier - School wear NI, Ballynahinch.



## School Fees

The school is a non-profit making organisation. The fees are a valuable contribution towards the running costs of the school. If finance is a major hindrance to your child joining the school, please contact us, we may be able to help in some way. Independent Schools receive no state funding, so fees and gifts support the day to day running of the school.

You will realise from the fee structure that we, like you, have to trust in the Lord's provision. We are grateful to those who have prayed, given gifts and invested time and resources to give a future to the school.

Fees are charged on a monthly basis per child over a 12 month period; you are welcome to pay them by term or annually if you wish. To keep school fees to a minimum we have a **cap on charging at 3 children per family** attending the school.

♦ £100 per calendar month / child and max. £300 per family

## Curriculum Costs

In addition to school fees, costs for the A.C.E. program also need to be covered. The cost of curriculum will depend on what level of the program your child is working at. The monthly cost for the curriculum ranges from £10 per child at Reception Class level in Year 1 to approximately £30.00 at Certificate level in Years 11 - 14 (plus any specific costs for electives that Years 11-14 choose to study).

Extra Curricular activities are not all covered by school fees or curriculum costs, therefore you may incur additional costs for piano or swimming lessons for example, should your child wish to participate in these.



## Admissions

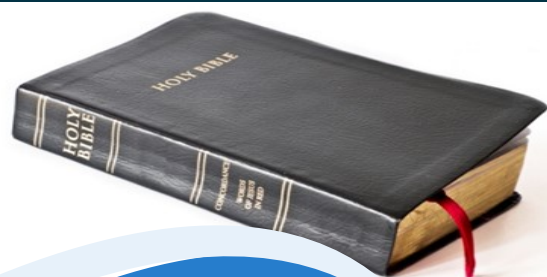
Admission to the school is by application. The heart of the school is that children are taught in a safe, caring environment, centred and established on the Word of God. We will always endeavour to protect this. A prospective student must not be a social or moral liability to the other children. It is our belief that children should be nurtured in a wholesome environment, most particularly in their formative years.

## Application

If you are interested in applying for one of our places please request an application pack, following which you will be offered a parent interview, together with your child. This interview is mandatory prior to admission. Parents and students must accept the school Conduct and Discipline policies as outlined in application pack and as enlarged upon during the Admission Interview. No place is guaranteed until offered in writing and all requested documents have been received by Harmony Christian School.

All applications must be submitted no later than July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 and must be accompanied by the following –

- ◆ Copy of child's birth certificate
- ◆ Signed Policy Agreement Form
- ◆ Pastor's Reference (for parents not attending New Testament Pentecostal Church)



## Statement Of Faith

As scripture is expounded in the school we have outlined below the fundamentals of the faith we believe so as parents can ask the leadership about doctrinal matters on which they want further clarification.

- ◆ The Bible is the infallible Word of God 2 *Timothy* 3:16, 17
- ◆ There is but one true God *Isaiah* 43: 10, 11
- ◆ Jesus Christ is Lord *Philippians* 2:11
- ◆ Man was created by God in His image. Man voluntarily sinned and incurred physical and spiritual death *Genesis* 1:26, 27 2:17 *Genesis* 3:6, *Romans* 5:12-19
- ◆ Jesus Christ is our only hope for salvation *John* 3:16
- ◆ Believers are to be baptised with water and partake in Holy Communion *Mark* 16:16, 1 *Corinthians* 11:24-26
- ◆ Believers in Jesus Christ should seek and expect to be baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire *Matthew* 3:11, *Acts* 1:4
- ◆ Baptism in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance *Acts* 2:4
- ◆ Believers are to be separated from that which is evil. Believers are to be dedicated to God *Romans* 12:1&2
- ◆ The church is the body of Christ *Ephesians* 1:22, 23
- ◆ Believers are called to evangelise the world and edify the body of Christ *Mark* 16:15-20, *Ephesians* 4:11-13
- ◆ Divine Healing is provided by our Lord Jesus Christ *Isaiah* 53:5
- ◆ Jesus will descend with a shout and the dead in Christ shall rise and those which are alive shall be caught up to be with the Lord forever 1 *Thessalonians* 4:16, 17
- ◆ There will be a final judgement of the wicked *Matthew* 24:46; *Mark* 9:43-48; *Revelation* 20:11-15
- ◆ We "According to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" 2 *Peter* 3:13; *Revelation* 21:22

## Parental Involvement

We believe that the relationship with parents is vital and we will work to develop strong relationships. Prior to starting school, parents are requested to attend a 'Parent Orientation' meeting, when parents are familiarised with the child's daily routines and methodologies of learning.

During the year parents will be asked to visit the school to discuss their child's progress and future studies. In this way, parents can take an active part in monitoring the child's progress and staff can report on the child's achievements and perceived learning potential.

During the year, staff and parents will get together to pray for matters affecting the school.

## Further Information

Thank you for taking the time to view the Harmony Christian School's prospectus for 2019/20. Whatever you decide regarding schooling for your child, we pray you are led by God. We are happy to supply whatever information you require to help you in your decision. If you require an application pack please contact us.



## Harmony Christian School

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School Principal

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